



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 4, No. 1

343 King's Highway East

February, 1961

TOUR OF NEW HEADQUARTERS, TALK ON 18th CENTURY FEATURED AFTER CANDLELIGHT DINNER, FEBRUARY 28

The eagerly awaited event of the opening of Greenfield Hall as the new headquarters for the Historical Society of Haddonfield will officially take place at a candlelight tour through the building, following our dinner meeting on Tuesday, February 28.

The dedication program will also offer a talk by Dr. John A. Munroe, distinguished Chairman of the Department of History, University of Delaware. Subject of Dr. Munroe's talk is "The 18th Century American Colonies and Their Antiques." Dr. Munroe is well known as a historical writer and lecturer. His talks at Williamsburg have been greatly enjoyed by several members of the Society.

Dinner will be served at the Haddon Fortnightly at 6:30 p. m. in the downstairs room. Dr. Munroe's lecture will be given upstairs at 8:00 P. M.

At 9 o'clock, the meeting will adjourn to Greenfield Hall, the new home of our Society. The great anticipation of our members in seeing the beautiful redecorating work that has been done at Greenfield Hall augurs a large turnout for our dinner meeting. Therefore, early reservations are suggested. The limit is 180 for dinner, first come, first served.

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 28

TIME: 6:30 P. M.

PLACE: Haddon Fortnightly

though more can be accommodated at the lecture and on the tour. The cost of the dinner is \$3.50.

Send all reservations to

C. Robert Marsh,
351 Hawthorne Ave., Haddonfield, N.J.

All reservations must be received by Thursday, February 23. Further details of the dedication program and dinner meeting have been mailed to all members.

NEW WOMEN'S COMMITTEE PLANS ACTIVE PROGRAM

A newly formed women's committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. William B. Tomlinson will give new leadership to many of the activities in the Society and promote new ways of making the Society more valuable to members.

Under discussion are historical and

(Continued on page four)

HISTORICAL TALK DEPICTS CHARACTER OF NEW JERSEY DURING REVOLUTION

Excerpts from a talk by the Hon. David D. Furman, Attorney General of the State of New Jersey, given at the Moravian Church, Oldsman's Creek, Swedesboro, in celebration last year of its dedication in 1789, the year in which George Washington assumed office as the first President of the United States

The predominant segment of the New Jersey population in 1776 was English in origin. The Dutch were second in numbers. Scots had settled in Essex, Middlesex and Monmouth Counties and many were powerful in the colony and well to do. Pockets of Swedes, Huguenot French, Irish and Germans from the Palatine were scattered through East and West Jersey.

Today a New Jersey citizen may claim as part of his heritage ancestors of several of the principal racial strains which inhabited the colony. In 1776 the racial stocks were pure and men of mixed descent, English-Dutch for example, were the exception.

A CLASS SOCIETY

There was a stratified society, stratified by national origin, by religion, by wealth and land-holding. Artisans of the towns, servants and small farmers looked to the rich and the aristocratic for leadership. Because of their advantages in education and breeding, they were presumed abler and wiser, and even nobler. The New Jersey Constitution of 1776 fixed a rigid qualification of financial resources for voters. To be eligible to vote a citizen must have fifty pounds, proclamation money, in clear estate. Class distinctions were accepted in pre-Revolutionary New Jersey. The spirit of democracy stirred feebly until almost 1776.

As believers in democracy, we may take heart that all segments of the population banded together in the battle for freedom and self government, and that conspicuous in the leadership of that battle were men from the privileged class

the landowners and the professional men from the towns who had most to lose from an overthrow of the social and economic order.

At the same time we cannot slough off the strength of Tory sentiment in New Jersey. Six battalions of Loyalists joined the British forces under the command of Brig. Genl., later Maj. General Courtland Skinner, the last Attorney General of New Jersey for the British Crown. Homes were burned and brother fought brother in the contest between the Tories and the Revolutionists.

New Jersey, unlike other northern states, still had slaves, an estimated 250, at the outbreak of the Civil War. No new slaves were acquired after the early 1800s but slaves then owned were not freed and continued in servitude unless manumitted. Slaveholding flourished in New Jersey in colonial times. In 1776 there were an estimated 10,000 Negroes in the state's population, four-fifths of them slaves. Besides the Bergen and Somerset County Dutch, the most extensive slaveholders were non-Quaker English in the Delaware Valley farm country southward from Hunterdon County.

EARLY INDUSTRY

All parts of New Jersey that are now inhabited were inhabited in 1776. Farming and industry reached into areas now forsaken by humans and reverted to pine barrens and highland second growth. Hunterdon and Sussex, now among the sparsest in population, were the two most populated of the thirteen counties of 1776, with concentrations of Palatinate German farmers.

Iron mining and iron foundries or bloomeries were key industries both in the Appalachian highlands and in the pine barrens of Burlington and Atlantic Counties. New Jersey iron was one of the sinews of the Continental Army. The present state-owned Wharton tract in Burlington County was a munitions center. All this has vanished. Abandoned pits and shafts, crumbling foundries and mills are now overgrown by forest occasionally surrounded by ghost villages.

Other prospering New Jersey industries, long since abandoned in their locations in 1776, included glass factories, cotton mills and brickmaking factories. Salt works dotted the coastal area, were strategically important and at times were defended by detachments from the Continental Army. These were typically primitive operations in the salt marshes of Barnegat Bay and elsewhere. Salt water was boiled away leaving a residue of pure salt.

Ocean-going commerce was important at Toms River, Waretown, Tuckerton and other ports, now centers for pleasure craft. Tuckerton was a whaling port. Cranberry Inlet, now sanded shut by the operation of the tides, reached towards Toms River. The Jersey ports were a backdoor for Washington's army, deprived of supplies from New York and other more northerly harbors by the British occupancy.

N. J. VICTORIES

The British could still have won the war and stamped out Revolution in the North in the fall of 1777 and the grim winter of 1777-78. It was at Red Bank that the key engagement took place which prevented an English victory by land in the Philadelphia area prior to the closing down of winter. I predict that historians some day will reappraise Red Bank and attach to it a greater, perhaps a decisive significance.

Valley Forge was preceded by the

naval and land battles for the forts of the lower Delaware. The British General Sir William Howe had seized the city of Philadelphia. His continued occupancy of the colonial capital depended upon the opening of the lower Delaware to supply ships. Standing stubbornly in the path of the British fleet commanded by Sir William's brother Admiral Lord Howe were the American forts and redoubts, Fort Mifflin, on Mud Island, opposite Woodbury and the redoubt at Billingsport opposite Billings Island.

The gallant defense of the lower Delaware held up Lord Howe's fleet and the establishment of a secure supply route into Philadelphia from September until mid-November. By then, any plans for a military campaign by the British army based on Philadelphia had crumbled until the ensuing spring.

New Jersey was the scene of a dramatic, if temporary victory in this long struggle for the Delaware forts. Colonel Von Donop with two thousand Hessians crossed from Philadelphia to Cooper's Point and camped overnight at Haddonfield. The assault the next afternoon on Fort Mercer and its defense of felled trees sharpened and pointed towards the attackers was met by what the historian Trevelyan calls the deadliest fire ever delivered with equivalent firearms by so few men in so small a space of time.

According to various estimates one hundred fifty to five hundred Hessians were killed in the bloody repulse. In addition to the withering direct fire, there poured into the Hessian ranks an enfilading fire from a flanking projection and the American galleys on the Delaware.

Colonel Von Donop, fatally wounded, said, "It is finishing a noble career early, but I die the victim of my ambition, and of the avarice of my sovereign"—the Landgrave of Hesse, who sold his countrymen as mercenaries to the British crown.

Historical Society of Haddonfield
Haddonfield, New Jersey

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 118

Haddonfield, N. J.

FORM #3547 REQUESTED

4

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

(Continued from page one)

social events which will be both educational and entertaining. Mrs. Tomlinson, in announcing the new chairmen of the various committees, stated, "We expect all the women of the Historical Society to consider themselves members of the women's committee. We would be pleased to have interested women members contact the chairman of each committee on which they wish to work, or telephone me at HA 9-0838. The Committee meets the third Wednesday of each month. Officers and chairmen are as follows: Asst. Chairman, Mrs. Donald Willis; Secy., Mrs. Charles Richardson; Treas., Mrs. Edward Krauss; Corresponding Secy., Mrs. Walter Richman. Chairmen of Committees: Activities, Mrs. Charles Evans; Hospitality, Mrs. Jos. Grimm; House, Mrs. Karl Robinson; Exhibition, Mrs. Howard Lawrence; Loans, Mrs. Jos. Penny-packer; Publicity, Mrs. Wallace Root; Sewing, Mrs. Howard Tilton; Volunteers, Mrs. C. Wilder Marsh; Plates, Mrs. David Lenhart; Library, Mrs. Jesse Haydock, Sr.; Historian, Mrs. John Stewart.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor
Historical Society Bulletin
Send all editorial contributions to:
120 Warwick Road
Haddonfield, N. J.

**HOW TO JOIN
THE HADDONFIELD HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Check the classification you wish and mail with your check or money order and your name and address to the Treasurer, Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr., 125 Wedgwood Lane, Haddonfield.

Contributing Membership:

\$25.00 per couple per year

Sustaining Membership:

\$10.00 per couple per year

Single Membership:

\$5.00 per year

Name

Address.....
.....

OFFICERS

President—Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann

1st Vice President—Mr. Joseph M. Tatem

2nd Vice President—Mr. William Sherman

3rd Vice President—

Mr. Richard Hammond

Treasurer—Mr. Charles R. Mulloy, Jr.

Recording Secretary—

Mrs. William B. Tomlinson

Corresponding Secretary—

Mr. Albert T. Bauer

Curator—Mrs. Robert Dalton